Bristol Sept: 1st 1846. Tuesday.

My dear Sir.

My last letter to you, was I believe on the 16th from Lynton, rather a short one, in answer to one that had been forwarded to me of June 30th?

Since then, I have had much indirect communication with you, at least so it has appeared to me, thro' the intercourse with mutual friends.

Perhaps the following methodical statement of events may interest you.

In consequence of communications with my (corresponding) friend Rd D. Webb of Dublin, I repaired to London on Wednesday Aug 5. There I was, for the first time, introduced, at Mr Webb's lodgings to Messrs Garrison, H. C. Wright, James Haughton, Richd D. Webb & brother, & ~~Jno~~ Rd Allen of Dublin & spent an interesting evening. Mr Garrison's very cordial greeting, and friendly expressions, made me feel at once as with an old friend. The next morning, Messrs Garrison & R. D. Webb breakfasted with me at Dr Prichard's where I was staying, to whom I was glad to introduce them. Professor Retzius, a celebrated Swedish Naturalist, was there. — That evening, an Anti Slavery gathering was held at Mr Allen's lodgings, where the friends before named met, joined by Geo. Thompson, F. Douglass (my first personal meeting with him) & some other friends. Here we had much conversation, & planned an "Anti Slavery League". Finding I had had as much exertion & excitement as I thought prudent for my health, I resolutely tore myself away from other succeeding meetings, that

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I well knew would be very delightful. But the experience of severe illness of last summer, following over exertion, inspired me with prudence, & I rejoined my daughter amidst the solitudes of hills & streams in Devonshire.

Of what took place in London after I left, you will learn thro' other sources.

Last Monday week, August 24th I met Messrs. Garrison & Douglass at the Bristol Railway station, & conveyed them to my house to dinner. Several friends interested in the A.S. cause joined us in the evening. Mr. Garrison remained with me & my daughter as our guest. Douglass, I was obliged to surrender to our friend Ed. Thomas, who would not allow of my monopolizing both. On the following morning however, Douglass, with some other friends, (among them Mr. Coe surgeon of the Cambria when D. came over in her) breakfasted at my house. At 2 O'Clock on that day, Tuesday, we had an excellent meeting at the Victoria Rooms, — a fashionable place, the Mayor in the Chair. The "Bristol Mercury" (which I will send to you & to Mrs Chapman,) will give ample details of this meeting which was a most satisfactory one. On that evening I had a party of 40, to meet Messrs. G. & D. all sensible people, Unit.n & orthodox ministers, merchants, &c. and most interesting indeed was the conversation. My daughter, ~~to [illegible] a very~~ & a very pleasing ~~interesting~~ young lady who was staying with us, (Miss K. Parker,) took F. Douglass that morning to our blind Asylum, ~~whe~~ the pupils of which, ~~men~~ about 60 men, women, & children, had heard his Narrative read. Their delight was extreme to feel him, & question him. I think F. D. will never forget the scene. After the public meeting I sent our friends a drive in my phaeton to see some of our beautiful scenery, & ~~transport~~ thus refresh themselves.

On Wednesday Morning Mr Thomas entertained G. & D. and in the evening we had a large public meeting of about 1000 people who were addressed, & felt deeply interested. On Thursday morning Messrs G. & D. breakfasted with Mr Courtenay, and after dining with us, Mr James escorted them in my phaeton to the Station on their way to Exeter.

I learn that at Exeter under the auspices of Dr Bowham & Mr F. Bishop, an immense gathering took place. Mr Douglass remained at Exeter, and Mr Garrison left for Bath on Saturday. I met him at the Bristol station, & accompanied him to Bath. Here we dined with Mr Murch, Unit. Minr, & I then called with Mr G. upon Mr Abdy. The meeting between them was peculiarly interesting; it was of short duration. I then attended Mr G. to the Station, & saw him start off for London, taking leave of him with much regret, though with feelings of deep satisfaction at having had the pleasure & the privilege of seeing so much of him. If I mistake not, these sentiments were not unreciprocated.

As you well know Mr Garrison, you will not be surprised at the very favorable impression he has made here upon all who had the benefit of conversing with him. Nearly all who had before heard of him, were rather prejudiced against him. Nothing of American Anti-slavery has been known here, before the appearance of my friend, but thro' the medium of the B & F. A. S. Soc.y and by them, G. is greatly disliked, — I fear traduced, — but this I would not assert.

The paper I send will tell you of what comes next, — namely another address from Douglass ~~this~~ on Wednesday evening when I expect he will have an audience of 1400 people. I have had 3000 handbills struck off, of which the inclosed is a copy. ~~Monday he spoke~~ Last night D. spoke at Bridgwater:— tonight, he addresses a Taunton audience under the auspices of Mr. Montgomery, & of my brother in Law Mr. Edward Bagehot.

Much attention to American Slavery will be occasioned ~~here~~ in Bristol, by the present agitation of the question: I hope we shall form an auxiliary to the League: another A. S. Soc.y in this country with new blood in it is greatly needed: the old one is getting superannuated — and yet I fear the knowledge of American A. S. politics is not so advanced here as to ensure advantage to the cause generally, from the attention which Mr G's

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being here necessarily attracts to the *divisions* that have occurred. The Brit. & F. A. S. Soc. have quite the ear of the old portion of our Anti Slavery public, and Mr. Garrison is much disliked by them: some of the Quakers are especially opposed to him. He is about to publish a short tract explanatory of the position of the Old & New Soc.: I hope he will make out a *clear* case, otherwise the question which will be common, will not be easily answered, — "why form a new Society while we have so well founded & wealthy an old one?" At present no very influential persons have given their names to the new League — As a right understanding of the actual position & *repute* of persons conspicuous in the A. S. movement is most desirable between the parties on each side of the Atlantic, I do not hesitate to say, that George Thompson's name carries little weight here. An able man & excellent speaker, none deny him to be; but he is looked on as a sort of *Adventurer*, trading by his wits in any cause open to him but especially preferring those of a philanthropic aspect; — in a word he carries no *moral* influence with him, & with all the faults of this country, I am happy to say, that in public men, *character* is the sheet anchor of their moral power — Mr. Garrison has a very high opinion of G. T. — Mr. Abdy, I was sorry to find, spoke very disparagingly of him to Mr. G. & even said there had formerly been some dishonourable conduct on his part. Mr. A. is however an irritable man; easily taking offence I suspect. Pray regard all this about G. T. as confidential. Personally, I have no unfavourable feeling towards him: I was never introduced to him till I was last in London. But it is well *you* should know, that in this country ~~*here*~~ G. T.'s name will not help on the new A. S. League —

The notice of my tract in the Liberator of July 31 — (a day interesting to me as my daughter's birth-day) is very gratifying: ~~[illegible]~~ it appears to me to appreciate its more correctly than perhaps some British *out & out* Abolition friends do, my purpose in putting it forth. I did not desire it to be the full exponent of my own A. S. views. New ground for the growth of knowledge & zeal respecting A. S. was to be broken up here— Had I not indeed begun by inserting the *thin* edge of the wedge, the attempt would have been a failure. When Mr G. & Douglass return to the U. S they will testify of those who have been induced by reading the tract to enter ~~more~~ with earnestness into the cause

I am increasingly convinced that I have better served your purposes by the mode of writing I pursued, than if I had declared myself an unhesitating partisan of the American A. S. Society. I shall probably soon have to think whether it be well to print another edition of the "Brief Notice": the disposal of the 2000 copies of the present edition has been pretty well ~~[illegible]~~ effected or ensured.

The Bristol Mercury contains 5 or 6 *A. S.* articles: the editorial one is very good. I inserted the Advt. of the meeting & the paragraph headed "F. Douglass." The Mayor thankfully availed himself of the ~~hint~~ suggestions I made for his address.

The "Inquirer" of the ~~24th~~ 22nd ult, contains an excellent article on Slavery by Mr Hincks—

My daughter talks of writing to Mrs Chapman by this packet.— I must tear off half my sheet to keep the letter within weight

With kind regards from my daughter & the Carpenter family, I am, my dear Sir

Most truly Yours

J. B. Estlin.

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